

Change Control for XML in XML

Monsell EDM



Engineering Data
Management

A delta format for XML data files



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Change Control in XML

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- Death and taxes are the two certainties of life...
- And the other is that whatever you do in XML will change!
- Design any system with this in mind
 - How will changes be made?
 - How will changes be identified?
 - How will changes be controlled?
- The EXPRESS model will change
 - As well as the documentation, examples, test files....



DeltaXML: how can it help?

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- DeltaXML is designed to identify changes in XML files
- Changes are themselves represented in XML
- Can be used to automatically find changes, so
 - The changes can be checked
 - By hand or automatically
 - The changes can be displayed
 - The changes can be sent as update files
- Because the delta file is XML it can be processed, e.g. using XSLT



Do you need a DTD?

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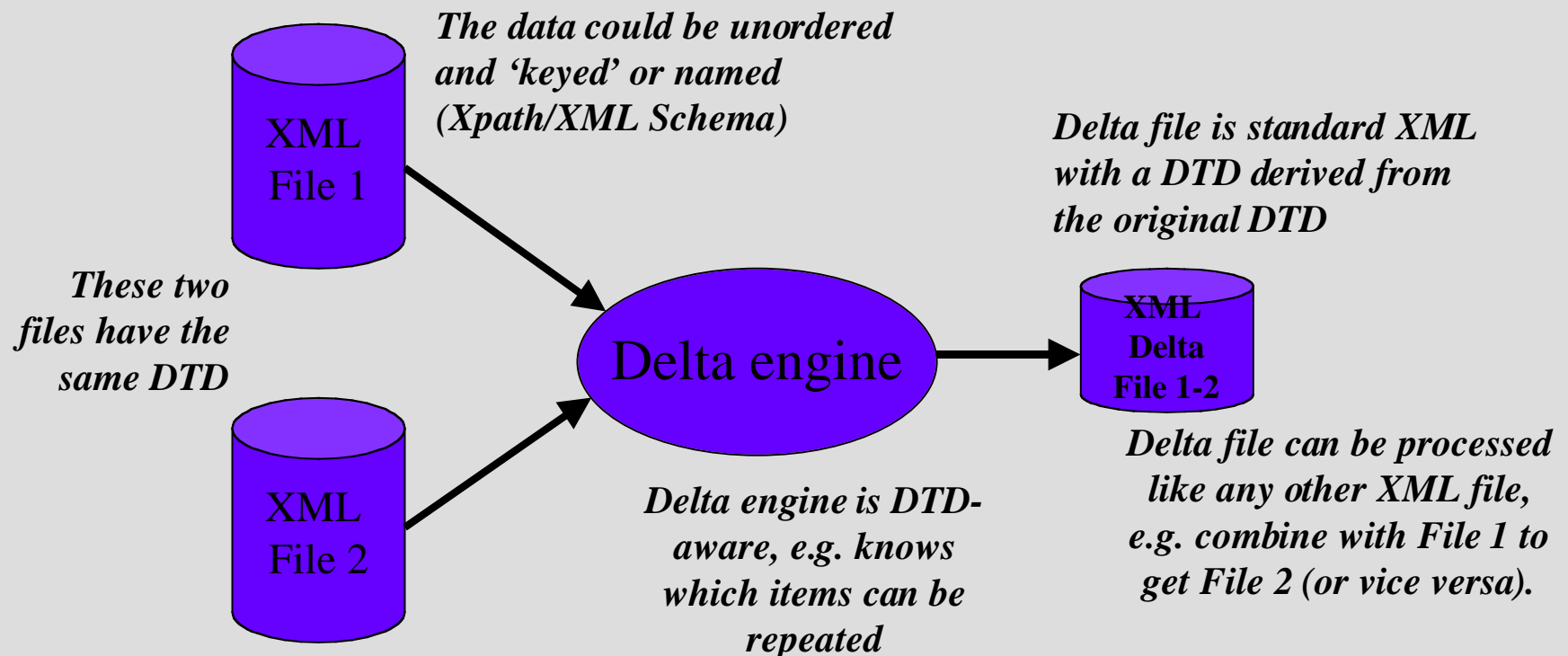
- **No: there is a general-purpose solution**
 - Useful for XML files that have no defined structure (DTD)
 - Useful for document files where the data is ordered
- **Also a more intelligent solution for particular XML DTDs**
 - Knows about the DTD so can create smaller delta files
 - Can be configured to understand unordered data
 - Can be configured to use 'keys' to identify data elements.



Delta XML

- It is an intelligent XML 'differencing engine'

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How can this help STEP using XML?

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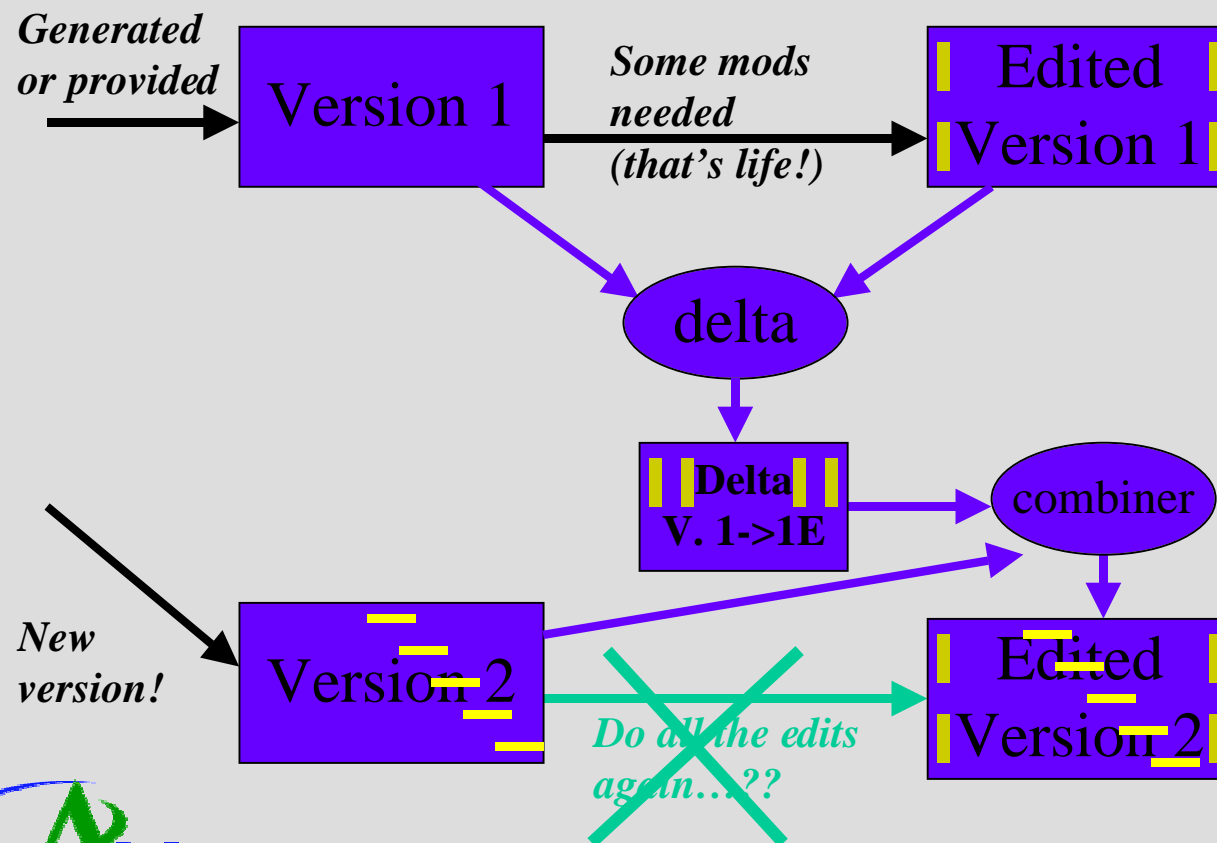
- You can identify changes in XML files from which generate the documentation
- You can identify changes in XHTML that is generated
- You can identify changes in EXPRESS models in XML
- You can even identify changes in test data in XML
 - Or compare generated data with benchmarks
 - DeltaXML has been used for P28 comparing data



Just a thought... in case you have this problem

- Helping to maintain data that is semi-automated

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*Health warning:
this will not work
in all cases!.*



Conclusions

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- DeltaXML can help you to identify and control changes to STEP XML documentation
- Design your DTDs with change in mind... and it will be easier to handle
- DeltaXML uses XML for the delta format, so can be processed in XSLT etc.
- Available now at www.deltaxml.com